Child abuse

*208. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are changing the laws to protect Indian children from child abuse—sexual, physical and economic;

(b) if so, the details worked out so far; and

(c) the schemes implemented by Government for the above said categories during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 is proposed to be amended to make the legislation more effective and child friendly. The proposed amendments includes inclusion of child beggars in the definition of children in need of care and protection, completion of inquiries for juveniles in conflict with law in time, regular review of pending cases before Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees, maximum retention of a juvenile in a home for a period of three years and special duty on Media agencies not to expose the name or face of the juvenile and provision for child protection units at District and State level.

There is also a proposal for amendments to the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act which seeks to prevent trafficking in women and children for prostitution by incorporating stringent punishment for traffickers who recruit, transfer, harbour or receive a person for the purpose of prosititution.

(c) Several schemes are being implemented by different Ministries and Departments for protection of children from abuse, which include Integrated Programme for Street Children, Integrated Programme for Juvenile Justice, National Child Labour Project Scheme, Childline Services, Pilot Projects for combating trafficking of women and children and others. The Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 has been notified on 20th January, 2006 which provides for constitution of National Comission for Protection of Child Rights at national level and the State Commission at State level.